

When Is A Perfin Not A Perfin Bulletin 268/22; 269/12; 271/7.

One of the answers seems to be, "When it is a Post Office Clip". In Bulletin 271 it was stated that there was mention of this clip or punch in a philatelic journal. Thanks to the stamp dealer Ken Knight, KEVIN PARKHILL has sent me a page from the November 1984 Stamp Monthly. The article is reprinted whole with permission from the editor of Gibbons Stamp Monthly.

NOT "RED CROSS" STAMPS

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Some five years ago, the Higher Officials of the British Post-office came to a decision - and acted upon it! - which might have had a most serious effect upon philately, not to mention the Entente Cordiale, the 'status quo ante' and European politics generally.

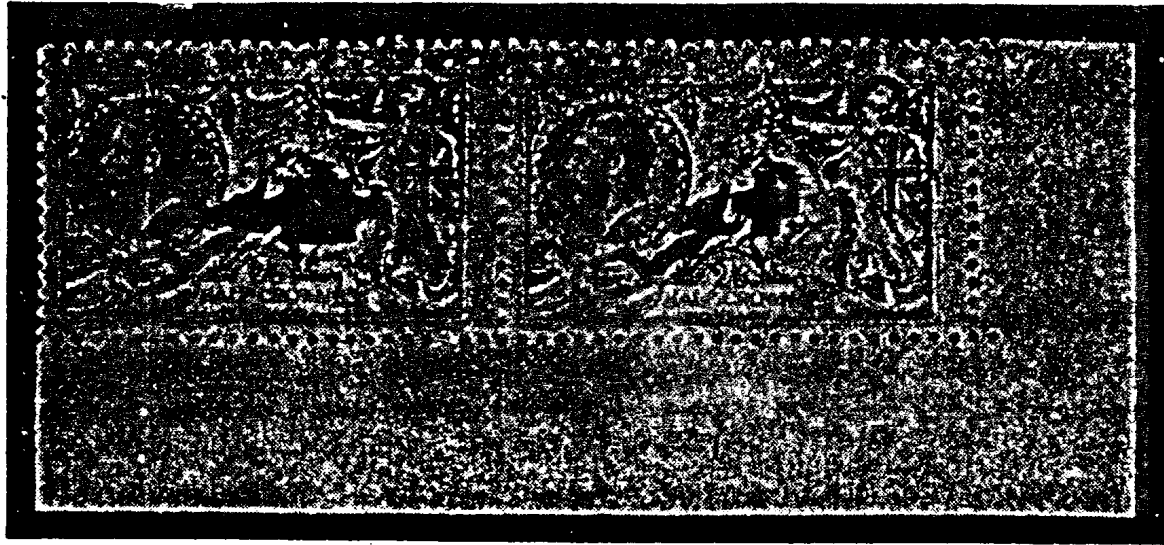
They got nervous - or shall we say, apprehensive? They certainly 'went off the deep end' in a red-tape round-about manner.

But why? Because some used high-value stamps had been taken off old telegraph forms, presumably to supply a philatelic demand: not a great matter to make a fuss about. But when the 'taking off' is officially rendered as 'frequent surreptitious removals', the man in the street 'sits up' and feels that there is something very seriously wrong indeed.

The outcome of this important and terrible discovery was that an Official Notice emanated from the GPO, and was sent to certain chief Post Offices. Here it is, 'verbatim et literatim':-

In view of the frequent surreptitious removals of the high value Postage Stamps from Telegraph forms, it has been decided, after experiments at certain selected Offices, that stamps of 2/6d and upwards in value shall be clipped at Post Office counters by means of special appliances, in order to destroy the Philatelic value, before being issued to the Public to be affixed to the Telegraph forms. Two pairs of the appliance will shortly be issued. The stamp should be slightly folded before being clipped, in order that the perforation may be made about the middle of the stamp. 15th August, 1919.

Our informant, to whom we are much indebted for communicating the terms of this document, tells us that at Nottingham the high value stamps were, for a while, sold in this mutilated state for all postal purposes - letters, parcels, telegrams. What stock was supplied by the GPO, or made locally by a specially appointed official, there is no available record; but at Nottingham, the stock, whatever its size, was duly exhausted. And then, after all this trouble of issuing a Notice and making 'special appliances', the experiment turned out to be a failure, in so far that it had not the anticipated effect - though it spoiled the stamp; but in so doing, created a new and scarce variety!



The stamps illustrated above were purchased over the counter of a Nottingham Post Office on 8th September, 1919.

Ed:- This would appear to answer the question concerning KGV stamps; but what of the QEII Castles used on telegrams and noted in Bulletin 269? Hopefully someone will come up with a later Post Office directive about these 'clips' which occurred around 1964-65 time.